



United States Department of Agriculture

Rural Development

October 18, 2013

Office of the
Under Secretary

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Washington, DC
20250

Voice 202.720.4581
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Dear Stakeholder:

We now have an enacted Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 continuing resolution that provides short-term funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development (RD). As we begin an orderly start-up of our loan and grant activities for FY 2014, we thank you for your patience and support during the period in which our services were unavailable.

I know that the funding lapse created difficulties and challenges for many of you and your organizations. We will be taking a proactive and customer-focused approach to prioritizing our activities so that we can resume normal operations as quickly as possible. As Rural Development stakeholders, you can be assured that we will be working closely with you to achieve this goal.

Thank you again for all that you do for rural America and the Nation. I look forward to a great year for Rural Development, made possible through our strong partnership for rural America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug O'Brien", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Doug O'Brien
Acting Under Secretary
USDA Rural Development

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